

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 OPR-02 SCS-03

DHA-02 CU-02 IO-10 /120 W
----- 062441

R 300900Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASS BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6926

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

ATHENS 5610

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASH DC

CIA WASH DC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON: CHANGE IN BUSINESS ATTITUDES

REF: BEIRUT 13198

1. WITH ENCROACHMENT OF VIOLENCE ON PREVIOUSLY SAFE
AREAS WHERE FOREIGNERS FREQUENTED, ATTITUDE OF FOREIGN
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BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS CHANGED RAPIDLY IN RECENT DAYS.

MOST FOREIGN FIRMS THAT A WEEK OR TWO AGO WERE WILLING TO GIVE BEIRUT THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT HAVE NOW AT LEAST TEMPORARILY EVACUATED PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DOING SO. INTENSITY OF VIOLENCE HAS REINFORCED PROSPECT OF ITS CONTINUATION, AND INTERNATIONAL FIRMS WHOSE TOP LOCAL MANAGEMENT IS NOT LEBANESE APPEAR TO BE MORE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING PERMANENT RELOCATION. THE PROBLEM STILL REMAINS OF "WHERE".

2. PART OF ANSWER, AN AUB ECONOMIC HISTORIAN BELIEVES, MAY BE EMIGRATION FROM LEBANON. HE ARGUES THAT ALTHOUGH SOME BUSINESSES MAY BE ABLE TO WORK OUT OF EUROPE, A LARGE NUMBER WILL STILL FEEL CONSTRAINED TO MAINTAIN AN ARABIC PRESENCE. AS FIRMS ARE PINCHED BY LACK OF COMPETENT PERSONNEL AND SERVICES IN OTHER ARABIC CITIES, THEY WILL HIRE LEBANESE-- SKILLED, POLYGLOT, CULTURED IN WESTERN WAYS -- TO OPERATE THEIR NEW OFFICES. THUS HE EXPECTS CONTINUED VIOLENCE TO STEM THE FOREIGN WORKER IMMIGRATION WHICH HAS BEEN CHARACTERISTIC OF RECENT YEARS AND CAUSE LEBANESE EMIGRATION OF SKILLED LABOR AND MANAGERIAL TALENT. GODLEY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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